

## U.N. seeks to revive Gulf talks

AMMAN (R) — Iran and Iraq have sent their foreign ministers to New York to resume post-war diplomatic contacts that have so far produced only shadowy meetings. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the chief mediator, is expected to get Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's Tareq Aziz together in the early part of next month. In April, he failed to persuade them to speak directly to each other. He will try again this month, hoping that a summit last month by his special envoy, Ian Kilmann, may have laid the basis for a breakthrough. The Baghdad and Tehran ministers still bitterly at odds over basic issues including ownership of the Shatt Al Arab, the river that forms the southern section of their border. The Gulf was last visited by a U.N.-backed ceasefire in August 1983 after nearly eight years of fighting in which, according to Western estimates, more than a million soldiers and civilians died. Peace talks promptly stalled. Tehran wants Iraqi troops withdrawn from an estimated 2,600 square kilometres of border territory they still hold.



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## Badran reaffirms moves towards securing public freedoms

# Seized passports to be returned; ban on travel, work to be lifted

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Moustafa Badran reaffirmed Sunday the government's intentions to take concrete steps towards securing public freedoms as well as freedoms to travel and work for all Jordanian citizens regardless of their political affiliations.

The premier also said the issue of martial law needs a very thorough study of its implications and its positive/negative aspects. "I wish I could cancel the martial law, but this issue has to be studied thoroughly and I want all you parliamentarians to share this study with me," Badran told the Lower House of Parliament, which met in regular session.

Badran stressed that the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to return all confiscated passports to their holders and release political detainees have been carried by the government.

"We have already released 48 political detainees. But I want to point out that political detainees are different from convicted political prisoners because the latter need a special royal pardon," Badran told Lower House representatives who pressed the issue

of public freedoms during the four-hour session.

The premier added that a "special committee to study the situation of convicted prisoners has already been established, and this committee has not yet finished its study."

But the prime minister said the government would grant further amnesties to political prisoners as soon as the committee finishes a review of sentences passed on political activists.

Several deputies pressured Badran on the exact number of confiscated passports and the provisions which the government will make to ensure these detainees are granted their right to return to their work and maintain their livelihood. Badran quoted an old Arab saying: "They ask when did we get to the palace, we say yesterday

### House panels elect heads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs committees held separate meetings Sunday and elected their chairmen and rapporteurs.

Abdullah Nsour was elected chairman and Abdullah Al Akaileh rapporteur of the Financial Committee; Hussein Mujalli became chairman and Dr. Mohammad Abu Farez rapporteur for the Legal Committee; Jamal Al Kheirah was elected chairman and Laith Shbeihat rapporteur of the Administrative Committee; and Taher Al Masri became chairman and Hisham Shiyab rapporteur for the Foreign Affairs Committee.

## Hrawi assails Aoun but vows to seek Syrian pullout

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi said in an interview published Sunday that rebellious Christian leader Michel Aoun was "an outlaw leading a mutiny that will only result in the final partition of Lebanon."

He also told the conservative Al Diyar newspaper that he plans to invite all militia leaders to join his national reconciliation government, formed under an October peace accord brokered by the Arab League to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

But Hrawi, a Maronite Catholic elected Nov. 24, stressed the militia chieftains must first abandon their private armies within six months, "otherwise they will be hit."

He did not elaborate. The Lebanese army is splintered, with 20,000 men supporting Aoun and 22,000 Muslim units backing Hrawi.

But these units are poorly equipped and without Syrian military support would be hard

pressed to take on the Muslim and leftist militias.

Hrawi, 64, proposed a summit conference with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Lebanon's key power broker, "to begin discussing security roles and the withdrawal" of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

That appeared aimed at placating the defiant Aoun. He has demanded a complete withdrawal by the Syrians.

Hrawi declared: "I pledge to all the Lebanese that the Syrian forces will evacuate every part of Lebanon when the security needs for their presence cease to exist."

Meanwhile Arab peacemakers held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday before flying to Paris to pursue their quest for lasting peace in Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria arrived in Iraq Saturday night with Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim after holding talks with Syrian

## Czechs dump Communists; reform calls sweep East

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Czechoslovakia ditched 40 years of Communist domination Sunday as the hopes of the 1968 "Prague spring" reform movement blossomed anew two decades after they were crushed by Soviet tanks.

Hardline President Gustav Husak, last of the leaders involved with the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion and its aftermath, stepped down and Czechoslovakia's first government without a Communist majority since 1948 assumed power.

It is a temporary government which shall lead the way to free elections, playwright Vaclav Havel, a former dissident consti-

tuted the most likely successor to Husak, told more than 300,000 elated citizens jammed into Prague's Wenceslas Square.

The people had achieved "a peaceful revolution," he said.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, where a whirlwind of popular discontent has ended or threatened to end Communist domination in most of the Soviet Union's allies, massive crowds took to the streets to back calls for reform or demand faster progress towards democracy.

In East Germany, tens of thousands of people demonstrated in cities across the country as new Communist party leader Gregor Gysi, elected Saturday, faced a test of fire on his pledges

In honour of this visit, Citibank Amman hosted a reception at the Amman Plaza Hotel which was attended by senior government officials, diplomats, bankers, and leading businessmen.

they met with senior regulators.

The four power conference would be the first since the 1971 meeting that drew up the agreement establishing the allies' rights in the city.

## Senior Citicorp, Citibank executive ends Jordan visit

AMMAN — Mr. Paul Collins, Citicorp and Citibank vice-chairman and director who was accompanied by Mr. Shakrat Aziz, division head for the Middle East and South East Europe, departed for London after a successful visit to Jordan during which

of reform ahead of the country's first free elections next May.

Pro-reform marches took place in Dresden, Magdeburg, Cottbus, Prenzlau and East Berlin, the official ADN news agency said.

But Sebastian Pflugbeil, a leading member of East Germany's biggest opposition group New Forum, said he believed a demonstration in Leipzig Monday, the cradle of a reform movement that shattered 43 years of communism in just two months, would make further demands for German reunification.

In Sofia, up to 50,000 Bulgarians marched through the capital and shouted for their Communists to surrender their monopoly on power and hold talks with the opposition.

In the Soviet Union itself, voters went to the polls in the westward-looking Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to choose new municipal and rural councils in what were the closest to multi-party elections in Soviet history (see page 8).

World War II allies France, Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States plan a major conference on Monday to discuss the role of Berlin in East-West affairs, sources said Sunday.

The sources in West Berlin said the four power conference would be the first since the 1971 meeting that drew up the agreement establishing the allies' rights in the city.

## Shamir ally says U.S. withholding information

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accused the United States Sunday of withholding information Israel needs to attend a meeting of U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers.

Israel said Friday Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would attend the Washington meeting but Shamir came under fire from hardliners within his Likud party during the weekly cabinet meeting.

The argument centres on the unpublished wording of Egypt's acceptance of a five-point U.S. proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo. Some Israeli leaders fear that the process could lead to contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I don't see in the American stance a fair stance towards Israel. I believe the Americans definitely have to give us the full information. That in fact has not been done," Transportation Minister Moshe Katsav said after the cabinet meeting.

"There is no denying the fact that there is no date for the departure of the foreign minister," said Katsav, who is closely aligned with Shamir.

Shamir told the cabinet that he was one of some 20 names being considered as potential negotiators. Ten will be selected for the negotiating team when the ministers meet in Washington, Yediot Acharonot said.

Another leading Palestinian, Sari Nusseibeh, said he had heard contacts were underway. "I don't think there is a complete and final list of names. I think there is a serious and continuing discussion," he told the AP in a telephone interview.

## French intervention seen possible in Comoros

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island (Agencies) — French troops laboured in the tropical heat of this Indian Ocean territory Sunday as they prepared for possible military intervention on the neighbouring mercenary-held Comoro Islands.

At least five Puma transport helicopters have been flown into Mayotte since Friday and military sources said 300 paratroopers and commandos were being rushed in to reinforce the normal garrison of 250 French Foreign Legionnaires.

Three French warships were anchored at Mayotte Island, which decided to remain French when the other three Comoro Islands unilaterally declared independence in 1975, and military transport planes ferried in men and supplies.

Army vehicles bumped along the narrow roads of the capital Dzaoudzi ferrying supplies



An Israeli soldier keeps a watchful eye on Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem.

## Two boys shot dead in Gaza, West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli settlers shot dead two Arab teenagers Sunday, one in the occupied West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip, as the Palestinian uprising began its third year, hospital officials and residents said.

The two youths were the fourth and fifth Palestinians to die in a bloody weekend of clashes marking the rebellion's second anniversary.

The army lifted a three-day curfew on 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, but more than 175,000 West Bank residents remained confined to their homes.

A military spokesman said Nablus, the Balata, Askar, Jala, Zaloun, Kalandia, Dheisheh and Tulkarm refugee camps and Bani Naim village remained under curfew.

Israeli troops shot dead two Israeli settlers during fierce clashes Saturday, the second anniversary of the Palestinian revolt.

Israeli troops and settlers have killed at least 630 Palestinians since the uprising broke out Dec. 8, 1987.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the intifada would continue "until the last Israeli soldier departs from our beloved land."

In the third year, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip should work on economic independence, he said.

"Let us follow up initiatives to build up the national economy by adopting a household economic system, by reclaiming the land and encouraging a return to work on the land," he said.

At the same time, the Palestinians of the intifada would strike new blows against the Israeli occupation by strengthening the system of popular committees, he added.

Diplomats, contacted by telephone from Mayotte, said the atmosphere was very tense and soldiers of the 500-strong Presidential Guard, now beefed up to 650 by the call-up of reservists, continued to patrol the capital.

Denard and other mercenaries have become extremely wealthy through extensive business interests. For example, the U.S. embassy building is owned by former mercenary Roger Gays.

Denard began developing ties with South Africa in the early 1980s.

## Waldegrave assails Israeli actions

NICOSIA (R) — A British government minister has denounced "Israel's daily arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people," the Oman News Agency reported Sunday. British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave urged Israel earlier this year by calling for an end to its military occupation of Arab territories. The agency, received in Cyprus, also quoted Waldegrave as criticizing the United States' attitude to the Palestinian problem, saying Washington should deal with it more seriously. "We strongly denounce Israel's daily arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people in occupied Arab territory and are trying to persuade our allies, especially the Americans, to deal with the Palestine problem in a more serious manner," the agency reported him as saying in a news conference Sunday. Waldegrave is in Oman on a four-day visit. Asked about the impact of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Waldegrave said: "With any people rise to put an end to occupation, there is no power in the world which can weaken their will." The agency quoted Waldegrave as saying: "The Palestinian people have the right to sovereignty and independence."

## Israeli oppression led to Arab uprising — Carter

ATLANTA (R) — Ex-President Jimmy Carter, in a ceremony honouring Middle East human rights workers, has said that Israeli "oppression" in occupied territories had instigated the two-year-old Arab uprising.

Carter also said that, despite some recent policy changes by President George Bush, the "Reagan legacy" of Washington's backing for military violence around the world survives.

He said the United States must share responsibility for wars in Central America and other regions in which millions of people are suffering.

Carter, who mediated the Israel-Egypt peace accord and now promotes human rights and peace as a private citizen, made his remarks in an address at his Atlanta Policy Centre, where a \$100,000 prize was given jointly to the Palestinian Al-Haq and Israeli B'tselem groups.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said its diplomats had been told to boycott the ceremony in which the four-year-old human rights award, named for Carter and

French-born Houston philanthropist Dominique de Menil, was to be given to groups monitoring military abuses of Palestinians.

Carter, in his annual "state of human rights address," said activists watching abuses worldwide have only recently begun to focus public attention on the "humiliation and suffering in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on people who for more than 22 years have never known a day of freedom."

"This oppression has instigated the violence of the intifada," he said, adding that "damage to human souls has been reciprocal. The peace, reputation and conscience of Israeli citizens have suffered terribly. Such are the ravages of war."

But the former president, who made human rights a major facet of policy during his presidency from 1977-81, complained that

world leaders are largely indifferent to the cost of war on innocent populations and "scattered outcries for world peace (are) simply ignored or considered signs of weakness or idealistic aberrations".

"It is not easy to face facts. Everyone knows that the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — yes, the PLO — must work together to resolve the conflict so that Israel's security can be preserved while the Palestinians finally enjoy self-determination and human rights," he said.

"Despite some commendable reverses in policy during recent months, the Reagan legacy survives," Carter asserted. "We have poured billions of dollars into El Salvador, much of the support going to military leaders who openly condone and probably direct the notorious death squads."

"The world knows that it was some of these same Salvadorean army troops who recently murdered six priests... We look the other way and maintain the flow of arms," he added.



Israeli soldiers stand easy on patrol in the Old City of Jerusalem but maintain alert as a Palestinian woman passes on the intifada's second anniversary.

## Thousands rally in Jerusalem for Arab-Israeli peace

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

Thousands of Israeli peace activists carrying candles and portraits of Jewish and Arab children killed in the Palestinian uprising marched silently in occupied Jerusalem Saturday to demand peace talks with the PLO.

The torchlight demonstration was called by the leftist Peace Now Movement to mark the second anniversary of the start of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police estimated the crowd at 3,500. Organisers said about 5,000 people took part.

The protesters, including many of Israel's leading academics and writers, carried banners saying "143 Jewish and Palestinian children have died in the uprising."

Mounted police and paramilitary border police lined the route, which passed close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's official residence. A handful of right-wing hecklers shouted abuse at the marchers.

Israel Radio said eight supporters of far-right anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane were detained for disturbing the peace.

The government refuses to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), branding it a "terrorist" group bent on Israel's destruction.

The Israeli human rights watchdog group Betselem says troops and Jewish settlers have killed more than 100 Palestinians under the age of 16.

Three Israeli children were killed in a firebomb attack, a Jewish girl was accidentally shot dead by an Israeli guard when their hiking group clashed with Palestinians, and a settler's baby was shot dead accidentally by troops lying in ambush for Palestinian militants.

Placards and speakers at the march called on the government to negotiate with the PLO.

"We hope to bring to public attention the blood price that is being paid. This will cause more people to believe that the conflict

should be solved through negotiations," said Tzali Reshet, a spokesman for Peace Now.

The peace activists were bussed in from across the country and included people from Tel Aviv, Israeli Arabs and residents of kibbutzim, or collective farms.

"This isn't a protest like a Eastern Europe, because there no one is getting killed. Here a people are fighting for an existence," said an Israeli Arab who would only give his first name as Ibraim.

Benny Gefen, a farmer whose son was killed in a clash with Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon, carried a placard that read "it's easy to talk to friends. We must speak with the enemy."

"Enough blood has been shed," he said. "It's time to speak with the PLO. This is one of the things our prime minister does not understand."

8 journalists detained  
Meanwhile 8 journalists

Hebron Police Headquarters.

Army spokesman, who cannot be identified under military regulations, said those detained were not arrested or charged. They said the delay in their release came because arrangements had to be made for the films and tapes to be taken for viewing by military officials.

However, Hamad said he and the others each had to sign a bail warrant for 3,000 shekels (\$1,500) before their release.

He said they were not told if they were accused of any crime but were questioned about whether they knew they had entered a closed military area. Outliers are forbidden to enter closed zones.

Soldiers often close down towns or villages where trouble develops, sometimes after reporters already are present. The journalists who were detained were all in the village covering a protest march before it turned violent, Hamad said.

## U.S. battleship arrives in Bahrain

schools in the West Bank closed "for the interest of the local residents and to secure discipline and order." That order made it impossible for UNRWA to complete the 1988-89 school year, as planned, by the end of November under a compressed curriculum aimed at making up for months of schooling lost the previous year.

UNRWA protested at the time that the closure order put the education of refugee children in serious jeopardy. The agency subsequently made plans to reopen the 90 affected UNRWA schools in the West Bank Dec. 11 in order to make up for time

lost in the current school year.

The agency has now decided against trying to re-open its schools in the West Bank "despite the further loss of time and the increased burdens" that this will place on the pupils and their 1,340 teachers.

At the same time, UNRWA

has expressed its disappointment to the Israelis at the way in which co-ordination was handled with the agency "on a matter of grave concern to us." It has also noted its intention to follow up the issues raised by the protracted West Bank school closures through appropriate channels.

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## Positive route

THE Arab League efforts to put flesh on the Taif accord have taken them now to Baghdad where Iraqi thoughts on how to accelerate the Arab efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to Lebanon will be heard. The fact that the Iraqi government has wholeheartedly welcomed the Arab political itinerary to Baghdad and expressed readiness to lend meaningful support to the on-going Arab search for a viable solution to the Lebanese conflict is certainly a very positive development on the road to peace in that country. Iraq has become a regional power in the Middle East especially after its magnificent victory over Iran and the development of very sophisticated rocketry industry. It is therefore natural and indeed logical that Iraq plays its appropriate role in the events that are shaping the politics of the region.

Likewise Syria is also a regional power in its own right and its ability to influence the course of events in the Middle East is obviously a foregone conclusion. What has been missing during all these past years is the interruption of communication and cooperation between Damascus and Baghdad. This unfortunate state of affairs has had a negative effect on the quest for peace in Lebanon, not to mention other conflicts in the Middle East region. It stands to reason, therefore, that the highest priority be accorded to reestablishing brotherly relations between Syria and Iraq. Once this inevitable development occurs, the entire face of the Arab World would change for the better. The fruits of such a brotherly relation between two sister states will of course have a bearing not only on the Lebanese situation but also on the broader Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq relations. As a matter of fact Arab conflicts and disputes with their near or distant neighbours would begin to find opportunities for just solutions and resolution only when Baghdad and Damascus are on speaking terms on a truly brotherly basis. It behoves both countries, therefore, to make stronger and more persistent efforts to repair the bridges between them if not for their own respective interests then for the sake of entire Arab order and welfare.

It is with this backdrop that the Arab World welcomes the visit of Saudi Al Faisal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, and Ahmad Ghazali, the foreign minister of Algeria together with the Arab League's special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim to Baghdad to pursue the search for peace in Lebanon. With the future of the Arab efforts in Lebanon hanging on the balance, the success of the Arab visit to Iraq would surely determine which way these efforts should turn.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday gave prominence to statements given by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak following the latter's brief visit to Jordan and his talks with the King on Middle East issues. The paper said that the two leaders' emphasis on the rights of the Palestinian people and their determination to work together to support the Palestinian people's struggle coincided with the second anniversary of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The King and the Egyptian president both pledged to maintain the momentum of their efforts to help the Palestinian people live in peace and freedom, something that is being sought by the international community and opposed by the Israeli occupation authorities, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders' meeting in Amman bore a clear indication to the Palestinians who are waging a war of liberation against the enemy that their kinsmen and brothers can never forget their cause and that the Arab Nation is firmly behind the PLO's attempts to regain freedom and legitimate rights. The King and Mubarak who, of course, consulted on Arab affairs, dwelt in particular on the Palestine question and means of giving impetus to the peace process, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday says there is no alternative for the Arabs but to rely totally on themselves in their long struggle with the Israeli enemy. Fahd Al Khawari points out that in the light of the current international events in general and the attitude of the Soviet Union in particular, the Arab countries have no choice but to build up their own forces and depend on their own intrinsic power in their confrontation with the Israeli enemy which continues to occupy Arab land in Palestine. The writer notes that Moscow is now trying to end the cold war with the West at any cost and is rearranging its priorities in such a manner so as to offer service for the Soviet people. He draws attention to the fact that the Soviet Union is now moving from the status of a traditional and permanent friend of the Arabs to a neutral friendly state with less concern to the events in the Middle East region. This means, says the writer, that Moscow will sooner or later leave the Arabs to face their own fate, following more than four decades of assistance to the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and in view of the new developments on the world scene. The writer notes also that a disengagement in the alliance between the Soviets and the Arabs coincides with a hardened position on the part of the United States and Israel towards the Arab Nation and this, he notes, should be taken into consideration by the Arab governments which must now opt to bolstering intrinsic Arab forces and mobilising Arab resources in the political, economic and military fields to confront any eventualities in the coming stage.

Al Dustour daily on Sunday said the King Hussein's talks with President Mubarak assumed a great significance, coming in the midst of serious developments on the Arab scene and as the Palestinian people's uprising enters its third year. The statements given to the press by the two leaders reflect the Egyptian-Jordanian coordination of stands and full cooperation in the course of providing assistance to the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper. It noted that the two leaders dwelt in particular on the Middle East crisis and reviewed ways to give momentum to the peace process and to back the PLO's efforts to attain the aspirations and fulfill the hopes of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# What path should uprising take?

By Waleed Sadi

TO PARAPHRASE Mahatma Gandhi's words during the Indian struggle for independence, violent uprising enflames the will and determination of the colonial powers while non-violent and peaceful struggle against those powers would open their eyes and hearts. Many observers and commentators would venture to offer the wisdom of Gandhi on how the Palestinian uprising should proceed as it enters its third year. In rebuttal, other commentators would argue that what suited India may not suit the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the two situations are not comparable. Yet after two years on the start of the Palestinian intifada, often characterised as semi-violent, it is a propitious occasion to take stock of the path that the intifada has taken and appraise its future course, knowing full well that the best judge of which way the intifada must continue is the Palestinian people under occupation.

From a purely conceptual point of view, the principal difficulty with a quasi violent insurgency is that it is neither one kind nor the other and thus it is ending up with all the risks of a violent insurgency without the full benefits of a peaceful and Gandhi-like struggle for independence and self-determination. There would come a day when the Palestinian uprising must choose which way it wants to go instead of treading the on-going middle course, which is like having the worst of the two worlds. The pitfalls associated with turning the uprising into an armed conflict are too obvious to require elucidation. Suffice to recall in this context that there is always the risk that the Israeli hardliners, the likes of Sharon, Levy and Modai, would resort to the full Israeli military

might to quash the armed resistance and execute their conspiracy to "transfer" the Palestinians to neighbouring Arab countries. However, an international public outcry could prevent this from happening and frustrate the diabolical designs of the extremist in Israel.

Nevertheless, like violent resistance to Israeli occupation, semi-violent opposition to Israeli colonialism of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has apparently done what Gandhi has cautioned against, i.e., inflamed the stubbornness of the Israeli establishment and hardened its public opinion. This is at least what the latest opinion polls conducted in Israel reveal. How accurate such polls are in reflecting the real sentiments of the Israeli body politic is another question. Putting aside public opinion in Israel as portrayed by polls, there is no doubt that the Israeli establishment fears non-violent opposition to their occupation perhaps more than they fear the semi-violent one. The example of Beit Sahur, which shook the whole world a few weeks ago, is a case in point. What happened there was a demonstration of a Palestinian will to reject taxation without representation in the most peaceful way possible. It so happens that the principle against payment of taxation without representation is a cardinal rule in contemporary Western civilisation with which the entire world sympathises wholeheartedly. And there is no denying that the case of Beit Sahur has contributed to the quest of the Palestinian people for self-government and independence a great deal.

Another case in point is the deportation of pacifist Mubarak Awad by the Israeli authorities to the U.S. a few months ago. It will be recalled that Awad, a Palestinian American, had advocated a non-violent opposition to Israeli occupation. Tel Aviv feared so much his peaceful ways against their occupation and tyranny that they hurriedly deported him despite of strong protests from Washington. The haste with which Israel had acted against Awad does indeed suggest that the Israeli leaders fear most his style of resistance. Mubarak Awad's ways have indeed fortified what Mahatma Gandhi had foreseen few decades ago when he counselled his people that non-violent resistance would open the eyes and hearts not only of the entire international community but also those of the adversary as well.

Still in order to paint a more complete picture of violent and non-violent uprisings, it is in order to recall that in many other parts of the world, the struggle for independence took the route of an armed conflict. Gandhi's style of peaceful persuasion succeeded very well in India. Yet the same could be true had the Indian taken the violent road to independence. The arguments for non-violent uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be more overwhelming than for violent intifada in view of the wide disparity between the two sides in armament and weaponry. But whatever the future course of the Palestinian intifada, a decision must be taken one way or the other rather than keeping it right in between where it stands.

## Weary big brothers

By Martin Walker

FOR ONCE the conventional wisdom was right. This Malta summit was indeed historic. But the conventional wisdom is right for the wrong reasons. The importance of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting at Malta was finally and clearly to recall the end of not the Cold war, but of the superpower era.

All the guff about the end of the Cold War is getting a bit tiresome. We heard this cliché after the Washington summit of December 1987, and after the Moscow summit of 1988 and after the Reagan-Gorbachev farewell session in New York last December.

The only honest thing anyone important has said about the Cold War recently was George Bush at his press conference in Brussels, finally confessing why he refused to play the game of giving easy headlines to lazy hacks. "If I signal to you the Cold War is over, everyone will be saying what are you doing with your troops still in Europe," he told us.

It was a striking flash of candour from a much relieved president. Bush had arrived in Malta as nervous as a schoolboy on his first big date. This is not to disparage the man. His boyishness, his capacity to be genuinely enthused, is one of the president's most attractive features.

Even though we all know that a what both the NATO and the Gorbachev plans have in common is keeping West Germany locked into NATO, and East Germany in the Pact, and thus in the most crucial way, keeping the two Germanies distinct, while the two alliances evolve.

The PLO and some Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. action had enhanced the visibility of the PLO and, in the long run, had strengthened its cause.

But they and other diplomats did not expect the move would alter the way the United States does business in the world body.

The United States is the organisation's largest donor and is one of five permanent members of the 15-member Security Council with veto power. The U.S. government can kill any measure in the council, which can pass mandatory resolutions and is the most important U.N. body.

Although the United States is often in outvoted in the 159-nation General Assembly, that body's resolutions are not binding.

The PLO already is invited to speak during all General Assembly debates concerning the Middle East and the Palestinian question.

The Security Council routinely overrides U.S. efforts to keep the pio from participating in debates there.

Riyad H. Mansour, deputy

permanent observer of the PLO, said the U.S. efforts at "financial blackmail" had harmed U.S. credibility and attempting to unfairly influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

## U.S. prestige eroding at U.N.

By Victoria Graham

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The PLO's failure to win U.N. recognition as the government of Palestine is the latest in a series of confrontations that have put the United States on a collision course with the world body and generated suspicion about U.S. motives.

Last Wednesday, Arab states, pressured by the United States, abandoned their efforts to enhance the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and recognise it as the provisional government of the state of Palestine.

The United States had threatened to cut off funding to the United Nations if the 159-nation world body agreed to enhance the PLO's status, giving it a standing equivalent to that of other non-voting observer states, like the Vatican, Switzerland, San Marino and North and South Korea.

The United States, the major U.N. donor, was effectively threatening the organisation with bankruptcy if it did not obey Washington and drop the PLO issue.

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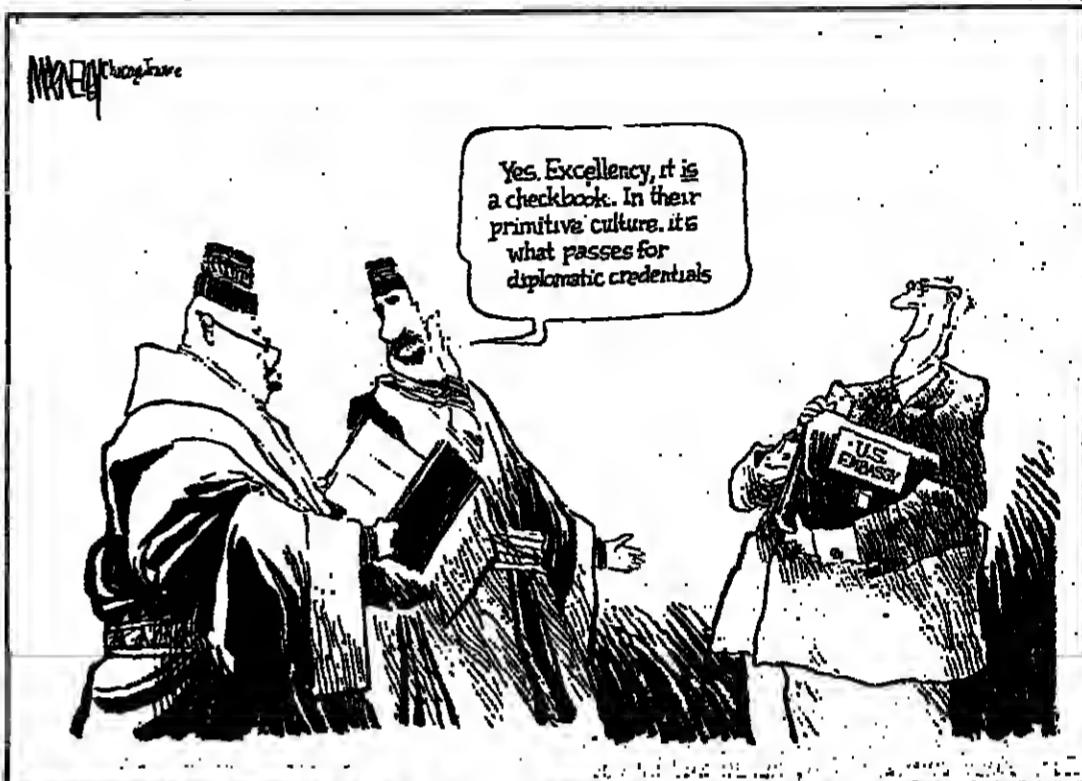
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United States for what some diplomats called bullying tactics and attempting to unfairly influence the issue with "financial terrorism."

Last week, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation defied a U.S. threat to cut off funds and gave greater recognition to the PLO. It voted overwhelmingly to help it train Palestinians how to grow food in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The State Department has not announced whether it will make good on previous threats to halt funding or possibly withdraw from FAO.

The PLO was given observer status to the United Nations in 1975 after a visit by Chairman Yasser Arafat. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution rebuking the United States and saying the PLO has a right to function here.

The World Court in the Hague also said the U.S. decision was a violation of the U.N. headquarters agreement.

A U.S. district court judge also upheld the right of the PLO to operate a mission.

In November 1988, the United States refused to grant a visa to Arafat to address the General Assembly, as he had done in 1975. Again the General Assembly protested and it decided to move its session to Geneva in order to hear Arafat, delivering another blow to U.S. prestige.

At that session in December, Arafat renounced "terrorism" and implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist. The United Nations then opened negotiations with the PLO in Tunis; the talks are not making major progress on substantive issues, but are continuing.

The U.S.-PLO dispute at the

## Aquino in fighting mood after coup attempt

By Jeremy Cliff

Reuter

MANILA — Philippine President Corazon Aquino is in a new fighting mood.

Determined to grab the initiative after defeating the sixth army coup attempt against her in almost four years, Aquino is counter-attacking, seeking emergency rule powers and launching a broadside against her political enemies.

Serving notice that she would adopt a more combative approach, the usually soft-spoken Aquino told cheering supporters: "Perhaps this revolt occurred to tell me, Cory you must get angry, you must fight those who fight you."

Returning to the fiery rhetoric of the 1986 "people power" revolt against former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino blasted her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel and two other opposition leaders, implicitly linking them to the coup.

Mobilising tens of thousands of supporters on the streets of Manila on Friday, a day after rebel soldiers in the capital ended their putsch and marched defiantly back to barracks, Aquino staged a new show of "people power". She made no promises to tackle the root causes of the revolt. Rebel leaders had demanded her resignation, saying she was indecisive, mismanaged the country, and passed on the Bush-Gorbachev

tors of the coup," he said.

In a much-applauded speech on Friday, Aquino urged Vice-President Laurel to quit, saying the budget for his office could be used better elsewhere.

She challenged him to explain the coincidence that he was always out of the capital when there was a coup attempt. "He keeps saying: Cory resign, Cory resign. What does he think I am, a fool, that I will resign so he will become president?"

Naming names for the first time, Aquino also implicitly tied former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and her own first cousin, wealthy industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to the coup that nearly toppled her.

Aquino said the senate would investigate Enrile's possible role, and the sword not of justice but of the avenger.

"This sword, unless restrained by the constitution through the supreme court, can wreak havoc on national unity. This bodies not only for the security of the president's remaining tenure,"

## An ode to Jerusalem

By Ibrahim I Qafaiti

How, when no more than two scores passed, That my memory roved in time, stimulated By stones, when, after being through, Some miles and few streets and alleys, The blue sea appeared from such a nook, From Jaffa, called then "mother of the poor", A part of land coerced then by Jews. Nay, by paleological doctrines enforced During this age of decadence — worldwide. There, I sat breathing the serene, satisfied Air, looking at the waves, looks rhyming With the inner cadence of the waters. Just then, A glance escaped from the sea, bestrewed a girl, A foreign young girl, and my fingers gleaned A pebble to throw it at her. She was sprightly; The pebble, inanimate, I dropped the pebble In the sea, and it was lost: the girl, neither. So many years passed, when his twin, a stone, Emerged alive, like a giant, one and many. To enthrall my whole-being, yet with ecstasy: For a master stone — sharper reshaped this Stone, breathed life into it, as did Man received from God. Alas, the master, One among Grecian gods, is a martyr who Breathed life to stone and lost his own. But no, his life incarnated in so many stones. The stones' Master has not died, for masters Of such a great cause, Al-Jihad, are in heaven, And now, the stones thus alive, are Talking on this globe, talking to all nations. The story of indignation, of people suppressed, And yet talking to all one language, but well Communicated to and comprehended by all languages, Because this simple stone has a language Universal. Therefore, for that stone, and many other, with awe And for the life in them, undivine though, and after Two years uprising, few lines of Psalmic Exhortation.

I

Bless thee, stones of Jerusalem, Bless thee, stones of Al-Intifada. For the child of Bethlehem Later uttered condemnation of Judah You stones uttered the emblem Of some children, knights of Armada. Bless thee Al-Intifada stones of Jerusalem, Bless thee, Jerusalem stones of Al-Intifada.

II

Bless thee stones, banners of freedom, In Jerusalem building a new kingdom; Jerusalem anew, clean of filthy whoredom. Yet, each stone by itself now seldom. Moses and Israel, though not at random Thrown — not by kids at ease of serfdom. Yea, each stone by itself is a kingdom; Yea, each stone is a banner of freedom.

III

Bless thee stones, now a raging sword Against profanity in Jerusalem by God abhorred: Each stone cursing a few, inland and abroad. And each stone next to his brother, all in accord A wall around Jerusalem, nay — the world; Building a fort against servitude and fraud, New wall built by the brave and the bold, Embracing humankind as did Christ in days old.

IV

Bless thee stones, in the River of Jordan baptised, Being thus ordained to protect a land monopolised, Usurped, and embalmed by some people, uncircumcised. By some false people — from Zion or, Zionised: Blessed stones our Holy Land must be fertilised, Our men, women, and children their honour — chastised, A free country, self-determination, and government — realised. Blessed stone: fertilise, chastise, realise rights brutalised.

V

Bless thee inanimate stones, how now animate By the gravity of your native's love, unaltruistic? Rolling away from martyrs grave to stipulate, Like that stone on Jesus tomb, fire inmate In the bosom of innocent creatures so passionate, Fire like that of the pentecost, a working mate, Spiritual, among nations, by Heaven undulate, Fire of resurrection for people suppressed, prostrate.

VI

Bless thee, mate of the Dome of the Rock — stone, For, as on that Rock a barbarian blow away was drawn. So shall modern barbarianism on these stone off be blown. Blessed stone, off these shall martyrs to heaven without mean, As did Mohammad from the Rock, a path to Heaven known. Mate of the Rock, with the Sacred Rock, a fate born — By cosmic process, signs assure implying events anom. Annihilate inhumane crimes committed by race so — wanton.

VII

Bless thee, stone, articulate decree lasting to eternity — French Revolution rejuvenated, symbol of the holiest entity, And blessed sanctuary that binds human kind in fidelity. Bless thee stone, destined to be the corner stone of Liberty. Bless thee stone, to all nations, the corner stone of Equality: Whereas the French Revolution failed of base infinity, When pervert emotions eclipsed our sublime humanity, Blessed stone, thou fairied, in cradle, by hallowed sanctity.

VIII

Bless thee stone, giving Time dimension and meaning, Made the Past, the Present, the Future a new breeding, With Mary's forever dropping tears passionately seeping. And unity with the blood of Jesus, blood ever bleeding, Blessed stone, tears, and blood-unleavened bread for eating: Our soul, mind, and body need that sort of feeding. Our nutrition for two years past, years to come of heaving. Blessed stones, your warriors and prophets are speaking.

IX

Yea blessed stones — from mists and clouds appearing, A vision, like the chariot of Elijah, from heaven peering To the Gods of the Olympic a sacred message bearing. As did Moses received on Mt. Sinai — tables rearing Commandments — tables, that on a black evening Stands like pillars of fire, showing our people and leading Their path away from the wilderness, of pain and weeping. That lasted some forty years, and history itself is repeating.

X

You, endowers of Liberty, day and night, Watch those tiny stones like stars very bright, Al-Intifada stones glitter, a magnificent sight, Yet each now but a wailing wall of plight, For Palestinians here, the diaspora, wherever they fight, Against the yoke of occupation — brimly tight, Watch the dawn of freedom on the horizon aight, By stony asteroids, gospels of a celestial knight.



Abano Terme, Italy's famous therapeutic centre, lies in the shadows of the Euganean Hills.



One of the open-air swimming pools in Abano Terme.

## Abano Terme — Europe's oldest mud therapy centre

ABANO TERME, Italy — A jewel in the countryside of the Euganean hills 42 kilometres away from Venice, Abano Terme is not only the most important mud therapy health resort in Europe but also the oldest in the continent.

Its origins are lost in legend. Its name "A Poos" is of Greek origin which means "that which removes pain."

It is said that when the Euganean people saw how steam arising from the furrows cut by their ploughs and boiling water gushing from the springs, they realised the therapeutic properties of the water which was able to restore them after a day's hard work.

Religious tendencies led the Euganean people to venerate the natural phenomenon in the person of the God Aponus — "he who removes pain."

Archaeological evidence shows that the ancient Romans built baths in the area at the foot of the hills where Abano Terme now stands.

Abano Terme owes its age-old success to the effectiveness of the treatments carried out there, among which fango (mud) therapy figures high.

Throughout the centuries, the therapeutic properties of thermal treatments have attracted famous personalities such as Petrarch, Shakespeare, Goethe and Mozart to the town, according to?

The area was firmly established as a modern centre for therapeutic tourism in the second half of this century. The thermal water comes from the Small Dolomites; it penetrates the subsoil as far as 3,000 metres and returns to the surface, heated to 87 degrees Centigrade during its slow, 50-year journey underground. As the demand for therapeutic tourism increased, the necessary structures were modified and the medical assistance strengthened.

The age-old tested validity of mud therapy was flanked by scientific studies on the geological nature of the basin. So today, Abano Terme relies on first-rate medical and scientific structures and on tourist as well as health care facilities that make it the most important mud-therapy centre in the world.

The fango treatment is the most characteristic curative element of the Euganean thermal basin. The mud is made up of a solid clay component, a liquid component of spa water and an organic component of algae, bacteria and protozoa.

Before use, the mud is left to undergo a maturing process in special open-air tanks through which runs the spring water, enriching it with mineral salts and stimulates the growth of special algae that are responsible for a large part of its healing properties.

The used mud is collected and regenerated with the same procedure.

Mud treatment produces beneficial therapeutic effects by means of a local pain-relieving action which relaxes and tones up

the muscles. It also helps in the movement of the joints, increases the blood circulation in the body and accelerates the elimination of the toxic substances produced by diseased tissues.

It is these treatments that make Abano Terme an important place in Italy and Europe, and it was the main reason behind holding the third international health and spa symposium in Abano Terme.

invited famous European medical specialists to speak during the two-day event (Oct. 29-30) about methods of treatment and healing on the basis on natural resources.

Fit Reiseo, which initiated the symposium, is the organisation that promotes European therapeutic and health resorts for tourism.

"Health fitness is a human need," said Mayor of Abano Terme Armando Gennari. "Thermalism is part of this treatment."

According to the mayor, who spoke in a press conference after

the symposium, over 250,000 people from all over the world visited Abano Terme in 1988, 45 per cent from West Germany.

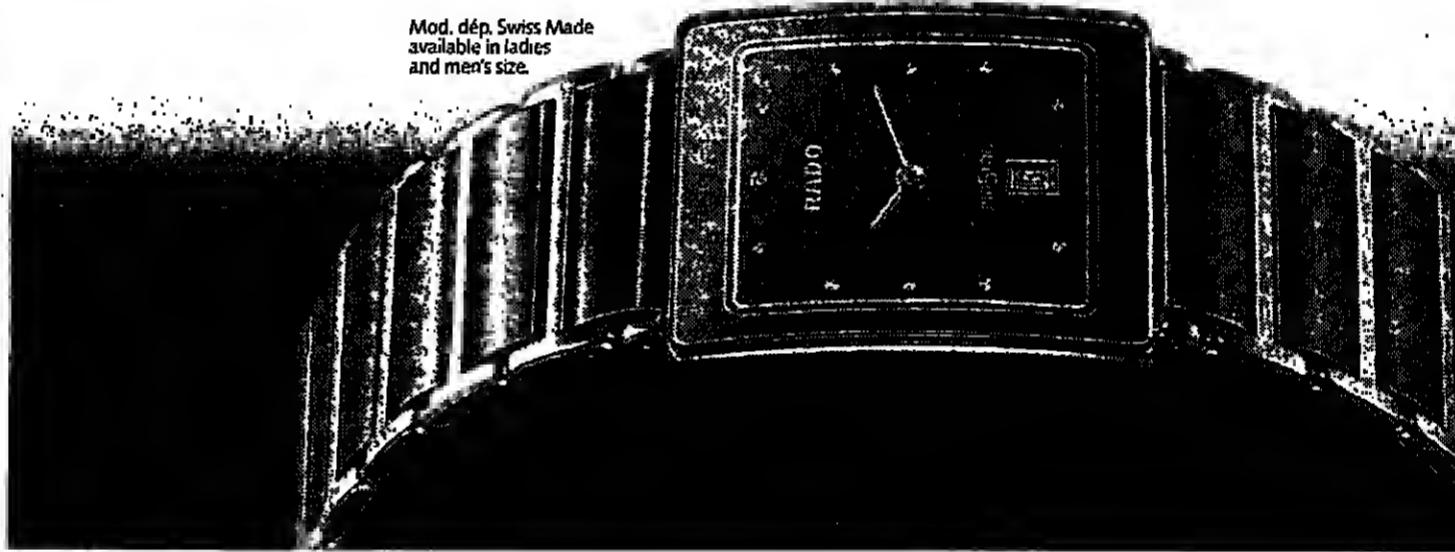
There are over 170 "thermal" hotels in the Euganean basin, each having its own thermal spring. Every hotel is also a treatment clinic.

"We cannot cure every disease by spa treatment," said the mayor, "but we can build up and improve the quality of life not only for our patients but also for people who want to keep fit."

— (AKV)

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## Economy

### Conference focuses on financial role in Jordan's future planning, progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University in Irbid Sunday hosted the first conference on the role of accountancy, financial and banking operations in economic development in Jordan.

Nearly 30 researchers and specialists from Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the three-day meeting which is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Standing in for Prince Hassan, Irbid Governor Jawdat Shouf delivered the opening address underlining the importance of finance and accountancy in the construction and development process in the Kingdom and the role the Jordanian universities

can play in this respect.

Jordan is facing very difficult circumstances and challenges but refuses to capitulate and succumb to pressure and can never retreat from its economic and development programmes designed to help the country and its citizens face the future with greater confidence, Shouf said in his address.

The university's vice president for administrative affairs, Fouad Al Sheikh Salem, said that the conference is being held at a time when Jordan is in most need of



Arab and foreign financial experts listen to the opening speech Sunday at Yarmouk University. Dr. Sayel Ramadan, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee, is speaking.

The conference aims to underline the importance of finance and banking operations in the economy, especially for decision makers and planners, according

to Dr. Sayel Ramadan, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee.

He said that the participants will discuss in detail the financial and accountancy problems encountered by various organisations and will suggest possible solutions for them as well as ways

to encourage research work in these fields.

Yarmouk University officials said that the meeting would focus attention on the role of accountancy in development, the contributions of banks and financial institutions towards stimulating the national economy especially in planning matters and controls.

### Libyans drain treasury

TRIPOLI (R) — An economic relaxation in Libya, aimed at defusing political discontent after years of austerity, has left the country living beyond its means and facing a delicate balancing act for at least two years, economists say.

Official figures show the trade balance swung into deficit last year for the first time since at least 1973 and foreign reserves have tumbled.

The balance on services also took a turn for the worse as hundreds of thousands of Libyans took advantage of easier rules on foreign travel. More than a million, about a quarter of the population, visited Tunisia alone in 1988.

Diplomats say Colonel Muammar Gaddafi had to let more goods into the country and more Libyans out because dissatisfaction with economic conditions was about to develop into a political crisis.

Austerity was imposed in the early 1980s with a drop in the world price of oil, Libya's main source of foreign exchange. With oil prices still relatively weak, Libya will have to keep dipping into foreign reserves over the next two years to meet the demand for imports and travel abroad, economists said.

According to figures made available to Reuters, Libya ran up a trade deficit in 1988 of \$173 million after a surplus in 1987 of \$363 million. Imports in 1988 cost \$220 million more than in 1987.

The deficit on the services account grew by \$700 million while revenue from oil exports fell \$320 million.

The result was a current account deficit of \$2.25 billion, compared with \$1.02 billion in 1987. Both were financed entirely by foreign exchange reserves accumulated when oil prices were high.

Foreign economists estimate that a slight rise in oil prices and a higher Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sales quota in the first half of 1990 — 1.233 million barrels per day (b/d) against 1.149 b/d currently — will give Tripoli some respite.

Next year's current account deficit should fall to about \$1.2 billion.

But even that would wipe out almost a third of the country's net foreign reserves of \$3.83 billion at the end of 1988, the economists say.

Officials have said the drain on reserves is likely to be only \$500 million a year. But the estimate came before September celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Gaddafi's 1969 revolution, which cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Foreign economists have estimated that net foreign reserves could dwindle to just \$200 million by 1991.

"The authorities are to achieve a more open and efficient economic order without causing unacceptable reserve losses," a recent International Monetary Fund report on Libya said.

"In the event of persistent reserve losses, the validity of the liberalisation process could come into question amid calls for its reversal," it added.

Reforms began last year encouraged limited private enter-

prise after years of tight state control of the economy.

The 1989 budget set aside 150 million dinars (about \$510 million) for imports by individuals and partnerships. Diplomats said some officials were diverting allocations to friends and relatives.

Under government decrees this year, only gold, tobacco, medicines, insecticides, petroleum products and some foodstuffs will remain state import monopolies.

Private businessmen might also be allowed to import goods with their own foreign exchange — a revolutionary step which implicitly recognises the existence of a black market in hard currencies.

But the scope of economic reform is limited. An official document obtained by Reuters this month indicated Tripoli will not allow capitalist-style companies to emerge.

Tripoli is also reluctant to devalue the dinar to encourage exports and scrap price controls, measures recommended by foreign economic advisers.

"We are satisfied with the way the exchange rate system works but will review it if the need arises," an official said.

Diplomats said reservations about the private sector were holding back the break up of the monopoly on imports enjoyed by big state corporations.

Some corporation officials had been making profits on the side and did not want to give these up to a new class of professional businessmen, the diplomats said.

Libya says that, in line with past practice, it will not borrow from abroad. The country has no external debt.

### Jordan, Sudan further cement economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Sudanese joint economic committee which started sessions here Saturday has agreed on broad lines for increasing the volume of exchanged goods and on boosting the role of trade exhibitions and trade centres to promote bilateral trade exchanges.

Agreement came at a committee held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Sunday during which the two sides discussed principles of trade exchanges, exemptions of customs duty and types of commodities to be exchanged, according to a state

statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that the two sides also discussed other matters related to the implementation of a bilateral trade protocol signed earlier by the two countries.

Among other specific matters discussed, Petra added, was the sale of Jordanian cement to Sudan, Sudan, according to the agency, had earlier expressed desire to import cement and the Jordan Cement Factories company has decided to set up a silo in Sudan where it can store the Jordanian cement prior to marketing the product in the African country.

The Sudanese team Saturday met with Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to discuss general trade matters with Jordan and means of implementing the 1988 trade protocol between them.

Poles urged to swallow 'bitter pill'

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa appealed to Poles Saturday to swallow the bitter pill of austerity as the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) chief arrived to discuss the government's economic reform plans.

The government Friday unveiled details of its economic recovery plan which included a seven-fold increase in the price of coal.

The Solidarity-led government has warned that its crash programme to transform Poland's command economy along Western lines could lead to a 20 per cent drop in living standards and a 12 per cent fall in industrial output.

It has pledged to cut spending, tighten tax discipline and limit pay increases.

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — Premier Hans Modrow has appointed a government commission to review economic overhang, listing slow economic growth and an enormous foreign debt of \$20.6 billion among the increasing threats to the East German economy.

The Sudanese team Saturday met with Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to discuss general trade matters with Jordan and means of implementing the 1988 trade protocol between them.

Modrow appointed the commission Saturday, just hours after taking part in a marathon Communist Party session that elected Gregor Gysi the new party chairman.

The reformist premier offered an unusually blunt assessment of the economy, once considered the model for Eastern Europe.

Modrow told reporters the economy also has been hit by consumer shortages and price hikes in a country where inflation until recently was officially almost non-existent.

The foreign debt for each of East Germany's 16.3 million people works out to about \$12,600.

East German leaders are studying various methods to improve production, ranging from loosening central planning controls to attracting more foreign investment.

West Germany has offered

East Germany massive financial aid, if East Germany goes forward with its reform programme and embarks on a course towards a free market economy.

However, the East Berlin government rejects the introduction of free market elements, saying that would ruin the country's identity as a socialist system.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann is to travel to East Berlin Thursday

and, according to the Hamburg-based news magazine *Der Spiegel*, will be carrying a financial aid plan with him.

The plan's steps range from greater numbers of East German carpenters working in West Germany to financial guarantees for East Germany's foreign trade, according to *Der Spiegel*.

Earlier Saturday, the Communist Party apologised for leading the country into crisis.

Meanwhile, according to an army reservist, thousands of military conscripts are working in East German factories and mines to fill jobs left vacant by this year's mass exodus of young workers to the West.

The reservist said the political liberalisation of the past six weeks had been welcomed by the army and file. The two days of political indoctrination a month have been scrapped.

New regulations permit the wearing of civilian clothes off duty and unrestricted travel, even to Western countries. When they cross to West Germany soldiers can, like any other East Germans, pick up the Bonn government's 100-mark 'welcome money' payment.

But the changes have also aroused discontent. "Imagine a battalion of 1,000 men," he said. "They all want to go across to West Berlin or West Germany on a visit straight away. But they can't all get leave at once. The ones that wait get pretty fed up."

One consolation — in future East German soldiers will be allowed to watch West German television.

Feelings in the officer corps about the changes are mixed, the private believed.

The Jordanian and Sudanese delegations confer before concluding a new trade agreement (Petra photo)

### Turkey offers credits to Poland, Hungary

ANKARA (R) — As the iron curtain crumbles between East and West Europe, Turkey's Eximbank is offering tempting credits for Polish and Hungarian buyers in line with similar deals for the Soviet Union.

Turgay Ozkan, Eximbank general manager, told Reuters loans of around \$100-\$200 million had been suggested to Warsaw and Budapest through foreign ministry channels for purchase of Turkish goods.

"The crumbling of walls just speeded up our plans — we were

thinking of credits for Hungary and Poland anyway," Ozkan said.

Turkey's Eximbank has agreed \$150 million export finance credit for Moscow and further \$100 million loans were likely in coming months.

Moscow is interested in buying Turkish goods ranging from detergents to textiles, from leather jackets to shoes.

It has spent \$80 million out of the total \$300 million on pharmaceuticals, Ozkan said.

### Argentina rations sales of gasoline

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — President Carlos Menem reaffirmed his anti-inflation programme Saturday after the Argentine government rationed petrol sales and fired hundreds of train drivers who went on strike.

Five of the country's six state-owned railway lines came to a halt after 300 drivers were dismissed for joining a strike for higher pay Thursday. Menem told strikers "to keep in mind that many Argentines are looking for jobs."

Menem's five-month-old administration reacted strongly to signs of lack of public confidence as its July 9 economic programme faltered.

"The economic plan continues in force," Menem told reporters. "We are on the right path... and I repeat we will need major surgery without anaesthesia, at least two-and-a-half to three years to start seeing the fruits of our tool."

Menem took office amid the country's worst-ever economic crisis. A wave of food riots killed at least 14 people in late May and early June.

In scenes reminiscent of the earlier crisis, shoppers last week jammed into supermarkets and motorists rushed to fill up their cars' tanks on reports that prices would leap after the government adjusted its economic programme.

The government late Friday limited petrol sales to 10 litres for customer and ordered refineries to fill petrol orders. Filling station owners, fearing wholesale price increases and worries about dwindling supplies, had

threatened to shut down for four days.

While the Peronist programme intended to drive monthly inflation down to two per cent in December, private economists say it will be at least 10 per cent, up from November's 6.5 per cent.

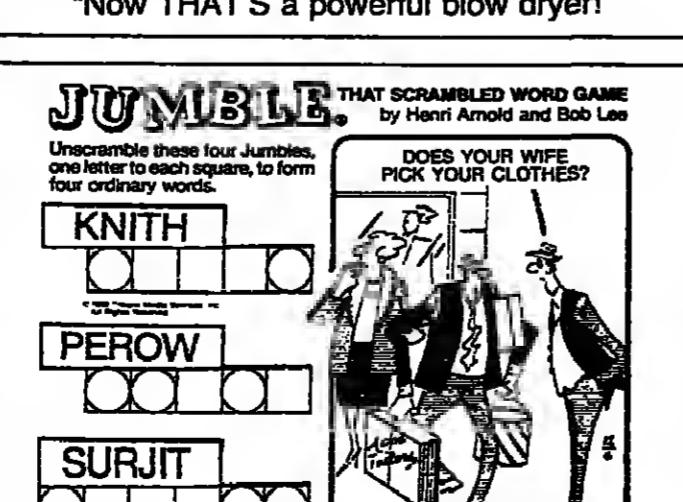
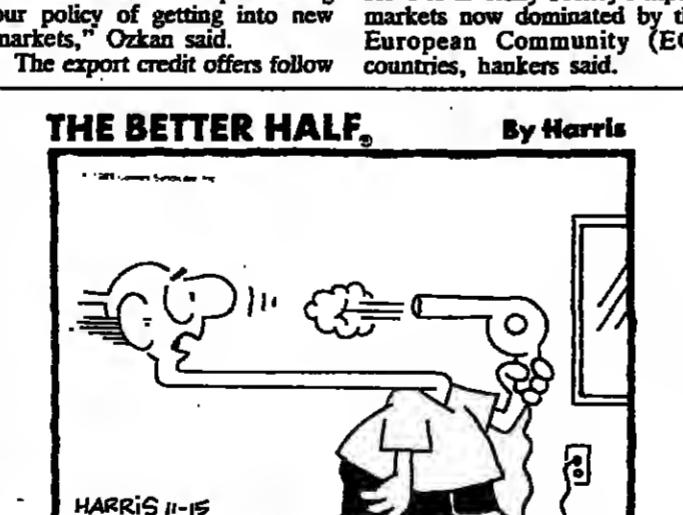
On the financial side, banks from Japan, Britain and Argentina agreed to establish a joint investment company to help finance debt-ridden Argentina and assist in the privatisation of former government-owned firms, officials have said.

Japan's Bank of Tokyo, Britain's Midland Bank and Argentina's Banco Rio De La Plata signed an agreement in New York to establish a new investment company, the Argentine Private Development Trust Co. (APDTC), said a Bank of Tokyo official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The three banks will invest equally in the \$500 million firm, which will open its doors January 1990, the official said.

As the first joint venture between Argentina and foreign banks, APDTC will be financed by the debt equity conversion method. Under that method, Argentina's central bank will pay the company in australis, the Argentine currency unit, and then APDTC will sell discounted government bonds. This will help reduce some of the country's debt, the official said.

Argentina has suffered annual inflation of 32 per cent, and the nation has a foreign debt of \$56 billion.



**Peanuts**  
**Mutt'n' Jeff**  
**Capp**



### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, December 10, 1989  
Central Bank official rates

106.3 107.4

French franc

# Sports

## Italy delighted with World Cup draw

By Paul Radford

Reuter

ROME — Italians basked in early World Cup glory on Sunday, delighted with the draw for next year's finals which gave them the best possible start to their quest for a record fourth triumph.

The Italian Sunday newspaper *La Gazzetta Sportiva* ran a front page banner headline saying "Italy wins 3 gol" (Italy three goals) to celebrate a draw which put them in the weakest of the six four-nation first round groups.

There was widespread praise for the lucky hands of film star

Sophia Loren, composer of the official World Cup Song Giorgio Moroder and Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti who drew three modest opponents for Italy in the United States, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The host nation will play all their first round matches in Rome and have every chance of winning group A and staying in the capital until the semifinal stage of the competition.

Italian trainer Azeglio Vicini was pleased about his team's chances but the smile on his face betrayed immense satisfaction. "I'm glad we're not in a difficult, even group," he said. "It could

have been much worse."

If fate seemed less kind to the tournament when the nations with the two worst records of hooliganism, England and the Netherlands, were drawn together in group F, there was surprisingly little official concern.

The two countries will meet on June 16 in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari in potentially the most explosive match of the tournament and a repeat of their ill-

fated clash at the European championship in Dusseldorf, West Germany, last year.

Despite a massive turnout of riot police and strict segregation of rival supporters, there were almost 500 arrests and large-scale damage to the city centre in outbreaks of violence before the match.

The trouble was later blamed largely on West German youths who attacked the notorious English fans.

World Cup organisers kept a low profile on the problem. "It is not the end of the world. It is one of 52 matches," International Football Federation (FIFA) spokesman Guido Tognoni said.

Privately, officials expressed the view that even if they would have preferred the English and Dutch not to meet, a match on Sardinia offered the best chance of containing trouble.

The Dutch will be based in Palermo, Sicily, and their fans can travel to the game only by air or sea, giving police a better chance of controlling their movements in Sardinia.

The island authorities also said they were happy to receive the English and Dutch, along with Ireland and Egypt, and did not anticipate problems.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### LUTON AGREE MILLION-POUND DEAL FOR WEGELE:

The transfer of Luton striker Roy Wegerle to fellow English first division club Queens Park Rangers for £1 million (\$1.6 million) is expected to be completed on Monday. Luton manager Ray Harford said Saturday he was sorry to see the South African-born player go out "a million pounds is a lot of money and we decided to take it."

**BRELAND STOPS OZAKI:** Mark Breland of the United States retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) welter-weight title Sunday by stopping Japanese challenger Fujio Ozaki in the fourth round of their scheduled 12-round fight. Panamanian referee Julio Cesar Alvarado stopped the fight 35 seconds into the round after a doctor examined a copiously bleeding cut which opened up above Ozaki's right eye in the third round. It was the champion's third defence of the title he wrested from South Korean Lee Seung-Soon last February.

### PASSPORT MISSING

I. Narinder Singh from India have lost passport No. 470569 issued 10 April 1988.

Finders please contact Post Box 4589

### HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

#### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### TAKE THE SURE-TRICK LINE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A 9 5 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ K J  
♦ Q 8 4 2

**WEST**  
♦ 8 4  
♥ K Q 10 3  
♦ 9 7 6 2  
♦ 9 7 6 2  
♦ K 9 5  
♦ 10 7 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♦ Q 3  
♦ A Q 10  
♦ A J

**The bidding:**

North: 1 ♠, 2 ♠, 2 ♠, Pass  
South: 1 ♠, 2 ♠, Pass  
West: 1 ♠, 2 ♠, Pass  
East: 1 ♠, 2 ♠, Pass

**Opening lead:** King of ♦

Had Shakespeare been a bridge

stichiondo, he might have written

about the ages of a player. At first

the infant, trying to master the intri-

gues of the finesse. Then the lover,

beamng from ear to ear as half of

his tenace positions produces an ex-

tra trick. And then the expert, wrig-

ging like an eel to try to avoid

having to take a finesse. And so

each one plays his part.

South had a classic jump shift—a self-sufficient suit of his own and some support for partner's suit into the bargain. When North raised, it took only Blackwood to determine that a dearth of kings precluded a grand slam.

West led the king of hearts and we know many declarers who would go down in a trice. They would win the ace, draw trumps and take the club finesse, an even-money proposition. Unfortunately, on this deal their luck would be out and the contract would fall by a trick.

The seasoned player has no problem with this type of hand. He knows the club finesse is an illusion—there is a line available which guarantees the slam.

After winning the ace of hearts the veteran, too, draws trumps in two rounds. Next, he takes three rounds of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy. With the roundabout laid, declarer exits with the jack of hearts.

When West wins the trick, there is a variety of losing actions available. A red-set return allows declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the jack of clubs from hand; a club is South's tenace. Either way, declarer avoids losing a club trick.

For me, that Brazilian team in 1982 was the best I have played in

and also produced the best matches," said Socrates. "The game with Italy, when we lost 3-2, was the best of my career and will always be remembered by everyone who was there.

"It was a fantasy game for us all and we shall never forget it. That is how I feel Brazil should be seen."

"Football is above all a show so, from that point of view, when

you have a spectacular match, it is fine."

Socrates said he believed Brazil had the players to do well again in the finals.

By Timothy Collings  
Renter

ROME — Brazil have lost touch with their soccer traditions and may even lose the loyalty of their colourful World Cup fans, former star Socrates has warned.

Socrates, a leading player in the Brazilian teams at the 1982 and 1986 finals, believes current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni's European-style tactics will prevent the familiar Brazilian skills from blossoming fully in Italy next June.

"There is not enough pure fantasy in the team. There has been a change in style and the players have learned a lot of new tactics from playing abroad," Socrates said after Saturday's draw for next year's World Cup finals.

"I do not like it much myself and I am sure most Brazilians will feel the same. Our football is about freedom and imagination within a tactical framework but this new system is too rigid."

For years, Brazil have been synonymous with "the beautiful game" and their samba skills have lit up virtually all the world cup tournaments since their first triumph in Sweden in 1958.

Twice in the past, in West Germany in 1974 and in Argentina in 1978, the Brazilians attempted to switch to more defensive tactics and both tournaments ended with their reputation tarnished.

It was the re-emergence of

their more familiar imaginative,

attacking style under veteran

coach Tele Santana in Spain in

1982, when Socrates and Zico

starred, which brought back their prestige.

"For me, that Brazilian team in

1982 was the best I have played in

### Irbid District Electricity Co. Ltd The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Energy Development Project

LOAN: 2371-JO

TENDER: 25114/04/5

#### Invitation for bids

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of Energy Development project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Tender 25114/04/5.

2. The Irbid District Electricity Company now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Distribution Transformers and 11KV R.M.U.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect, the bidding documents at the office of:

Director General  
Irbid District Electricity Company  
P.O. Box 46 Irbid — Jordan  
Telex 51528 KHRBCO JO

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$50 or JD. equivalent.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than 2% of the bid price and must be delivered to the above office on or before 1200 hours local time on Monday 22nd January 1990.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1200 hours on the date given in the letter supplied with these documents at the offices of Irbid District Electricity Company.

### HELP YOUR FRIENDS GET AHEAD...

Dear Friend,

There are few things in life as exciting or satisfying as the experience of seeing new opportunities on the horizon, opportunities that can be earned with a better education.

Probably one of the greatest gifts you could ever give would be to share this experience with someone else. You may be surprised to find out how many people you know want to better themselves through further education. It may be a friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker — anyone who wants to improve their chances of promotion, or perhaps start a new career.

Just send us the name and address of anyone who might be interested in having a more productive and rewarding future. We will send them complete information on any one of our home-study courses listed below. The information is FREE and there's NO OBLIGATION.

#### Easy as 1-2-3

1. Start off by writing down a list of all your friends, neighbors, relatives, or anyone you work with who might be interested in home-study career training.

2. Go over the list carefully. Pick out the names of people you think would be most interested in one of the home-study courses listed below. Look for ambitious people who want to get ahead in life and enjoy better jobs and higher pay.

3. Print the names of your friends who are interested in the right of this form, and give us each person's complete address. Also, tell us the name of the course they are interested in. We will send them literature with full information on the course. Then, tell your friend to watch for details on an exciting opportunity. There's no obligation.

#### CHOOSE ONE OF THESE CAREER FIELDS

##### ASSOCIATE IN SPECIALIZED BUSINESS

56 Computer Programming  
57 U.S. High School Diploma

58 Catering/Gourmet Cooking  
59 Cosmetology/Beauty  
60 Office Management with  
option in Marketing

61 Business Management with  
option in Finance

62 Hotel/Restaurant Management

63 Legal Secretary

64 Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

65 Auto Body Repair

66 Auto Mechanics

67 Auto Sales

68 Bookkeeping

69 Child Day Care

70 Drafting

71 Electronics

72 Electricity

73 Fashion Design

74 Furniture Making

75 Graphic Design

76 Hotel Management

77 Insurance

78 Jewelry Making

79 Police Sciences

80 Restaurant Management

81 Sewing

82 Small Engine Repair

83 Spelling

84 Travel Agency

85 Typing

86 Veterinary

87 Veterinary Assistant

88 Welding

89 Writing

90 Photography

91 Dressmaking & Design

92 Painting

93 Jewelry Making

94 Photography

95 Painting

96 Photography

97 Photography

98 Photography

99 Photography

100 Photography

101 Photography

102 Photography

103 Photography

104 Photography

105 Photography

106 Photography

107

## Gorbachev willing to dilute party monopoly

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said the Communist Party would resist attempts to diminish its authority but held out the possibility that constitutional guarantees of its leading role in society could be scrapped.

Calling the party the guarantor of his perestroika reform programme, Gorbachev told the policy-making central committee Saturday that demands for an immediate end to the party's legally-enshrined monopoly on power were premature.

And he said the country's economic woes, while grave, were being exploited for political gain.

"The Central Committee will resolutely fight attempts to downgrade the importance of the party and to undermine its authority with working people," Gorbachev said, in remarks carried by the official TASS news agency.

In the framework of this process, any article (of the constitution) can be the subject of modification or be excluded. This fully refers as well to Article 6," Gorbachev said.

Article 6 of the 1977 constitution guarantees the 20-million-member party the "leading and guiding" role in Soviet public life. It has become a matter of fierce debate as disenchantment with the party's grip on power grows.

and fast-developing reform movements sweep through the Soviet allies in East Europe.

Hungary has dropped the name "Communist" from the party's name and is preparing for multi-party elections. Poland has installed a non-communist prime minister, Czechoslovakia was to announce a non-communist-dominated government Sunday and East Germany recently repealed the communists' monopoly on power.

On Thursday, Lithuania became the first of the 15 constituent Soviet republics to drop a constitutional guarantee of communist supremacy. Lawmakers in another Baltic republic, Estonia, will consider establishing a multi-party system Dec. 15.

Human rights activist Andrei Sakharov and several other members of the Congress of People's Deputies parliament have called a two-hour general strike Monday, the day before the congress convenes, to show popular support for removing the party clause from the national constitution.

Gorbachev hotly denied Article 6 had hindered greater democratization of Soviet life since he came to power in March 1985. In an obvious reference to Sakharov, a Nobel Peace laureate, Gorbachev said those demanding its urgent revocation were trying to

"demoralise communists, lower their activity at a turning point in perestroika."

"We must not create a new constitution until we have more or less clearly defined the contours of the renewed social mechanism, the optimal structure of organs of power and administration, the order of interaction of political forces," Gorbachev countered.

The 58-year-old Soviet leader did not use the expression "political parties," but was clearly sketching out a role in Soviet public life for groups not controlled by communists.

So-called informal organisations have proliferated in the more tolerant climate introduced by Gorbachev.

### Baltic elections

Candidates nominated by grassroots people's fronts organisations are widely expected Sunday to beat many communists in nationwide elections to fill municipal councils held in Estonia and Latvia.

In Estonia, more than 9,000 candidates are vying to fill 4,200 seats in city and rural councils throughout the Soviet Union's least populous republic with 1.6 million inhabitants.

Polls show the most popular candidates are environmentalists, or Greens, with ethnic Estonians favouring the People's Front and

the Russians favouring workers' associations with close links to communists.

"But if both ethnic and non-ethnic Estonians are considered, our opinion polls indicate 50 per cent support for the Greens — by far the best support. The communists would get under 10 per cent," said Johan Kiviratik, from Estonia's department of public opinion and market research.

In Latvia, Inans Daudis, a secretary of the top government executive body, the praesidium, called Sunday's vote "the first election conducted in the situation of real political pluralism."

Only 34 per cent of the candidates in the republic of more than 2.5 million people are members of the Communist Party, while 32 per cent are members of the People's Front.

In March elections for the new Soviet parliament, People's Front candidates trounced party-backed candidates in races across all three Baltic states.

Of the other Latvian candidates, 18 per cent belong to the Agricultural Union, which seeks independence and private ownership of land, and 1.8 per cent to Interfront, an organisation protecting the rights of ethnic Russians and other immigrants.

Daudis said all the groups can be virtually described as fledgling political parties.



Standing in line... Vietnamese boat people queue presently in the colony awaiting relocation overseas with all their belongings for relocation to a Hong Kong housing centre. Over 50,000 Vietnamese are

## Boat people brawl amid rising tension, gloom

HONG KONG, (R) — A 25-year-old man was beaten to death with iron bars Sunday morning as tension rose in Hong Kong's crowded Vietnamese boat people camps on fears of an imminent start to forced repatriation.

Police said the man was killed and three youths were injured as two gangs battled with iron bars Sunday morning at Whitehead Camp in Hong Kong's New Territories.

A senior Western diplomat who follows refugee affairs said Britain and Hong Kong were still discussing arrangements for what he called the orderly return of people whose appeals for refugee status have been rejected by the government here.

The two sides are discussing arrangements and will do up until the moment the first group leaves. The target is still mid-December, but there's no specific date as far as I am aware," he said.

Hong Kong has tried various methods of deterring the boat people over the years, including closed camps — where they remained refugee status but were kept in prison-like conditions, and a tough screening policy introduced in June last year.

He said press reports that forced repatriation was to get under way Sunday were incorrect but added that it would happen sooner rather than later.

Workers in the camps, where some 57,000 boat people are held, say morale is deteriorating daily as people hear reports of planes to return most of them forcibly to the land they risked death to leave.

"Every day at 2 p.m. in Whitehead they all demonstrate, waving clenched fists in the air and showing banners. The banners

say things like 'better dead than red' and 'freedom, where are you?'" a camp worker said.

Other slogans included "Hong Kong — our today is your tomorrow," a reference to 1997, when China is due to regain sovereignty over the freewheeling capitalist British colony.

Hong Kong is determined to start sending back those boat people that have failed to prove they are genuine refugees under United Nations criteria so as to try and avert another influx when weather conditions in the South China Sea improve.

This year has seen 34,000 boat people arrive, the bulk of them in the period between February and August.

Hong Kong has tried various methods of deterring the boat people over the years, including closed camps — where they remained refugee status but were kept in prison-like conditions, and a tough screening policy introduced in June last year.

Of the 57,000 here, 13,000 are considered genuine refugees because they arrived before screening was introduced last year. The remaining 44,000 are considered illegal immigrants, to be held pending repatriation unless they can prove a genuine fear of persecution.

So far some 6,000 have been screened and only 400 have been granted refugee status, allowed to stay while efforts are made to arrange resettlement in a third country.

Diplomatic sources said that

when forced repatriation — now referred to as "mandatory return" by British and Hong Kong officials in agreement with Hanoi's wish to be accused of involvement in human rights violations — started it would be with a small group, flown back to Hanoi aboard a chartered aircraft.

Hong Kong government officials are expected to keep the date and time of the departure a secret, and are maintaining a strict news blackout on the forced repatriation.

"The last thing they want is the sight of people being dragged protesting aboard a plane. Hanor's cooperation would evaporate if that happened," said a diplomat.

The first group is expected to come from the 51 boat people, all screened out, who have been held at a special high security prison called Phoenix House, where aid workers say morale is shattered by word that they are to be sent back.

Britain is keen to see the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) involved in monitoring the treatment of those returned.

The UNHCR has rejected any suggestion that it play a part, and Vietnam has promised refugees will not be persecuted.

"The problem is there are so many rumours flying round, both in and out of the camps, that the wretched people inside are now prepared to believe anything," said a diplomat.

## Column 10

### Pig finds romance

ATHENS, Alabama (AP) — Julia, a 204-kilogramme pet pig, has been banished from her downtown Athens home but the veterinarian who raised her says all's well that ends well — Julia has found romance. Veterinarian Bruce Young, who lost a bid in Limestone County circuit court to keep Julia in a pen in his backyard, said his pet will not be lonely in her new home outside city limits. She will be living with a pig named Romeo. Young, 44, found Julia, then eight weeks old, wandering along a road one stormy night in February. He named her for a former girlfriend. A city ordinance bans hog-raising within city limits. Young contended Julia was a pet, not livestock, but lost a court fight. Julia's fans will be able to watch her go out in style in the Athens Christmas parade Thursday. "I just hope Julia won't upset Santa Claus — she's about the same size," said parade chairwoman Debbie Lessor.

### \$10,000 tip

INDIANA (AP) — Waitress Tami Wolf often receives Indiana lottery tickets as tips, but it was never important until a week ago. A customer dropped a ticket into the tips jar at the tavern where she works and Wolf, 27, took a minute and scratched off the ticket to see if she won anything.

"Either I'm crazy or I just won \$10,000," Wolf told the people at the bar Nov. 30. "It was instant shock," she said. "People would tell me what they wanted to drink and by the time I walked over to get it I had forgotten what they wanted," she said. "I must have looked at the ticket 50 times. I was ready to sit on the other side of the bar and have a few."

The customer who gave her the ticket took it well when Wolf called him over from his pool game to show him the ticket. "His eyes got big and he just smiled" and said he was glad I got it," she said.

### Cosby leads the pack

RADNOR, Pennsylvania (AP) — Bill Cosby is the most successful entertainer in history and will be number one when people look back on television of the 1980s, in the opinion of the editors at TV Guide magazine. "The Cosby Show has been at or near the top of the ratings almost since its debut in 1964," according to the magazine's Dec. 9 issue, and the show "has never depended for its ratings on raunchy (off-colour) gags, violence and put-down stereotypes." Besides Cosby, among the most-remembered television personalities of the 1980s will be Larry Hagman and Oprah Winfrey, the editors said. Cosby's half-hour comedy show placed first among the shows of the decade, which included "Dallas" and "Dynasty," police shows "Hill Street Blues" and "Miami Vice," and "Nightline" and "Saturday Night Live." Hagman's J.R. Ewing character made "Dallas" a hit because "he played the smiling cowboy with such campy finesse." The show was picked as the second-best of the decade.

### Crosby the alligator

COGGON, Iowa (AP) — Your run-of-the-mill lounge lizard will still be roaming bars, but the Coggan City council intends to decide whether an undersized alligator can frequent a tavern. A hearing will be held next month to discuss whether Crosby the Alligator can be the mascot of Crosby's Cove, a tavern recently purchased by Crosby's best friend and feeder, Jim Schleifer. Schleifer is lobbying the city council to amend the city's dangerous animal ordinance, which prohibits bobcats, polar bears, alligators and other wild critters within the city limits.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN	MAX
AMSTERDAM	9	12
ATHENS	10	15
BAHRAIN	14	27
BANGKOK	18	34
Buenos Aires	23	33
CHICAGO	12	24
COPENHAGEN	03	27
FRANKFURT	18	28
GENEVA	02	12
HONG KONG	16	21
ISTANBUL	01	30
LONDON	02	35
LOS ANGELES	10	51
MADRID	18	45
MECCA	16	33
MONTREAL	23	28
X	9	12
NEW DELHI	05	27
NEW YORK	05	22
PARIS	03	32
ROME	08	45
SYDNEY	18	34
TOKYO	07	45
VENICE	23	34
X	20	34



The wreckage of a plane which crashed near the El Salvador border last week. In the foreground are the bodies of two men who were on the plane. One was carrying a Nicaraguan-supplied surface-to-air missile destined for Salvador rebels.

## Hunt launched for Manila coup leaders

MANILA (Agencies) — The Philippine military has launched a big manhunt for missing army coup leaders who apparently escaped when their men surrendered, a military spokesman said Sunday.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa told reporters the military was asking President Corazon Aquino to offer cash rewards for the turning in of rebel leaders who staged the sixth and most serious attempt to topple her.

Armed forces spokesman Oscar Floreido said about 1,800 rebel officers and men have surrendered since the coup was finally snuffed out in Manila last Thursday.

Still on the loose are several of the top men involved in the six-day coup, including cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, leader of the last coup attempt against Aquino in August 1987.

The officers are members of the "Reform the Armed Forces

Movement" (RAM), which accused Aquino of mismanaging the country, tolerating corruption among her relatives, appointing incompetent ministers and being soft on a 20-year communist insurgency.

Aquino, meanwhile, vowed never to "let evil triumph" against democracy.

Rebel soldiers Saturday surrendered their last stronghold at an air base at Cebu city.

Air Force Chief Major-General Jose de Leon said the rebel leader at the Macau air base, Brigadier General Jose Comendador, surrendered late Saturday to regional commander Brig. Gen. Renato Palma and was under investigation.

On Sunday, Aquino travelled by helicopter to Batangas city, 80 kilometres south of Manila, for the funeral of Major Daniel Atienza. Atienza's F-5 jet was shot down Dec. 1 during an air raid on rebel positions at the Sangley Point air-naval base, southwest of the capital.

## Salvador president offers negotiations with rebels

SAN SALVADOR (Agencies) — Salvadorean President Alfredo Cristiani, in his first peace offer since leftist guerrillas launched a major offensive last month, has offered negotiations with the rebels if they would agree to stop making attacks affecting civilians.

Softening his previous stance that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) must lay down its arms for serious talks to take place, Cristiani said Saturday he was not demanding that the rebels stop attacking military targets.

"The government is ready to restart the process of dialogue on condition that the FMLN announces publicly that it will stop all terrorist actions, especially

those affecting the civilian population," he told a news conference.

Cristiani's concessions appeared to be a victory for the rebels who launched a major offensive Nov. 11 partly to strengthen their negotiating position and show they were not a spent military force, political analysts said.

"Cristiani has to pursue peace because he can't do anything with the country as it is," one Western diplomat said. "Whether the FMLN accepts or not depends on how they see their military strength and what they consider critical targets."

If the guerrillas agreed to stop attacks involving civilians by Dec. 15, Cristiani said, his government

will be willing to meet FMLN representatives in Venezuela Dec. 20 to discuss ending the 10-year-old civil war which has killed more than 70,000 people.

He also announced a \$250,000 cash reward, protection and immunity for anyone providing information or evidence that will lead to the arrest and conviction of responsible for the Nov. 16 massacre of six prominent Jesuit priest-educators, their cook and her teenage daughter.

Some Jesuits have blamed government soldiers for the killings. Any person or persons who, against their will or unwillingly, took part indirectly in this who provides relevant information that can clarify this crime will be awarded (the money), Cristiani said.

He said the guerrillas agreed to stop attacks involving civilians by Dec. 15, Cristiani said, his government

will be willing to meet FMLN representatives in Venezuela Dec. 20 to discuss ending the 10-year-old civil war which has killed more than 70,000 people.

"Cristiani has to pursue peace because he can't do anything with the country as it is," one Western diplomat said. "Whether the FMLN accepts or not depends on how they see their military strength and what they consider critical targets."